

A  
SPEECH  
TO THE  
PEOPLE

AGAINST THE  
PRETENDER,

*At the Publication of*

Her MAJESTY'S PROCLAMATION,

And upon the Vote of the

*Honourable House of Commons.*

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*Be of good courage, and let us play the Men  
for our People, and for the Cities of our GOD :  
And the Lord do that which seemeth him good,  
II Sam. Chap. x. Vers. xii.*

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*Fuir us Troes, fuit Iliam, & ingens  
Gloria ————— Virg.*

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PEECH

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A  
S P E E C H

To the PEOPLE *against* the Pretender.

Gentlemen, Countrymen, and Britons,

YOU have heard Her Majesty's Proclamation to apprehend the Pretender, if he lands in her Majesty's Dominions. You know the House of Commons have voted the Sum of One Hundred Thousand Pounds to whoever shall seize him in these Kingdoms; And you cannot be unacquainted with the many undoubted Discoveries of vast multitudes Listed in his Service both in *Britain* and *Ireland*; Nor can you be Ignorant of the Preparations which are now making on the Side of *France*, nor of the Ships and Forces which are drawing together on that Coast; which we have from every part attested. All these Things seem to tell us what an immediate Danger is hanging over us. I shall beg leave to speak a few Words to you concerning the Danger of the Pretender, and the misery which would attend us if ever he should become our King.

I shall not at present go about to persuade you to maintain your Rights and Liberties, or to preserve your selves and your Posterity from being Slaves. For indeed it would be needless and altogether absurd to pretend to offer any thing in favour of Liberty to you, who have been for these thirty and Twenty Years struggling with the greatest Powers of *Europe* to Preserve it. Every *Man* has by Nature that Genuine Love of Liberty implanted in him, that nothing but the most stupid Education, the having never heard of a Free Common-wealth could ever make *Men* tamely submit to Slavery. But to Us, our Families, our Religion, our present Happiness, and the *Misery* of our Neighbouring Nations which have been oppressed by Tyranny, are all further Arguments which oblige us to look on Servitude with the utmost Abhorrence, and with Scorn to preserve our Lives by so base a Condition: And I am perswaded, *Brethren* there is not a *Man* among you but would destroy the Traytor, who should dare to own, that it was the Liberties of his Country he design'd to subvert. I shall therefore at present only endeavour to demonstrate to you the Greatness of your Danger and the Shame with which you will be loaded if you are overcome by it; that thereby you may have that Courage and Resolution kindled in you, which may make

you ready to meet any Hardships you may shortly be forced to undergo. For if the only way to preserve our Religion and Liberties be to stand by our Laws, and the Settlement of the Crown in the Illustrious House of *Hanover*, and to oppose with Vigour the Attempts which our Traytors at Home, or our Enemies Abroad are now making to fix the *Pretender* on the Throne of these Realms; I am sure we need no other Arguments, nor can have stronger ones than this, to move us to be Resolute in supporting the Right of that Illustrious House, tho' with the hazard of our Lives, our Fortunes, and every thing that is less dear to us than our Religion and Liberties, the Happiness of the present Age, and the Safety of our Posterity.

The Question at present, Countrymen, is not, *Whether we shall have this or that Prince to sit on the British Throne, and Govern us according to our Laws and Constitution? But whether we shall prefer a Race of Princes who will be tied by those Laws which have been made since the Revolution, and whose Interest it must be to Maintain those Liberties which we then asserted, and by which they will enjoy the Crown? Princes, who have been ever Zealous in the Protestant Religion, and by whose Means our Nation will be set at the Head of that Interest. A place which our Ancestors have ever gloried in! Or, whether*



*we shall submit our selves to a B O Y who pretends to be the Son of our Abdicated King, and who has been bred within the Confiner, and under the Maxims of an Absolute and Uncontrollable Tyranny? who reckoning himself excluded by the greatest Injustice, must be filled with Revenge whenever it is in his Power to execute it; who will never think himself obliged by those Laws which, he will say, have been made by Rebels, but will rather think it necessary to destroy those Parliaments which were the Cause of his and his Father's Exile; who has been Educated, and is zealous in that Religion which ever thirsts for the Blood of Protestants, and who has been an Eye Witness of the Success of Extirpating what they call Heresy, by Dragoons and Gallies; who as with all these Qualifications he can never hope to gain the Hearts of the People, must for an Age depend on the Power of France to Support him. In short, Fellow-Citizens, Shall we be Subjects to a British King? Or shall we be Slaves to one, who himself must be a Slave to France?*

*And are there, ye Britons, Men among you of such Base and Ignominious Characters as to be in suspense on such a Question? If there are, they cannot be Britons. It must be some of those Norman Names by whom our Isle has been thus polluted.*

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The Friends of the *Pretender* know too well that, if it was thought he would Reign after the manner I have describ'd, he would not have a *Partizan* in *Britain*. And therefore they use their utmost Endeavours to persuade you that it will be quite the reverse; that his Interest will lead him to make the Nation, over which he is King, as Independent as he can; that he will never submit to the Power of *France*, but will rather chuse to render himself considerable, by holding the Ballance between the Powers of *Europe*, as our ancient Kings were wont to do; that he will have his Father's Misfortunes too fresh in his Memory, to fall into his Errors, and that for these Reasons, your Religion and Liberties, and the Wealth and Glory of this Nation will be in the greatest Security under him.

But O! ye Men of *Britain*, be not deluded by these empty Assurances. Let it not be in the Power of those who hate you, when they shall have drawn you into your own Destruction, to laugh at the Easiness with which you believed them. It has been the constant Method of those, who have been the Enemies of our Laws and Constitution, to deny those Designs, which it was for their Purpose to conceal, and which, when it was time to throw aside the Mask, they have justified and approved. Have we not very lately had Instances in  
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abundance from these very People of this monstrous Behaviour?

They pretend however to argue with you, from his Interest and Ambition. But ye Men of Britain, *Is it not his Interest, is it not his Ambition to settle himself upon the British Throne?* And will he not pursue those means, by which alone he can accomplish it? *With what Strength or Power can he attack us, unless France supports him? Shall the Duke of Lorraine assist him?* The attempt would be ridiculous! Or can he imagine there are no Protestants in Britain to resist him? Or are they so few and inconsiderable, that his Party will easily subdue them? Will the Protestant States of Europe so forget their Interest, as to think themselves not concerned to preserve us: And will they ever suffer this Great and Mighty Nation (which was always wont to be the Bulwark of the Reformation) quietly to fall into the Hands of a Popish King. *Whence then can he secure himself against all these Difficulties, but by the assistance of the French!* And can ye ever believe that so interested a Nation will venture their Treasure and their Arms, where they expect to reap no Profit from them? And should they insist on the most extravagant Terms, should they (not contented to be allow'd in the quiet Possession of the Port of *Dunkirk* with a new Mouth to it) demand *Plimouth* and *Portsmouth*, nay *Chatham*



it self, the very Mouth of our River, to be delivered into their Hands, with what Face could the *Pretender* refuse it; to a Prince, who not only protected his Father, and has educated and maintained him; but who has once declared him King, who has already attempted an Invasion in his Favour, and by whose means alone he can ever hope to possess his Kingdom? It is then the Modesty of the *French*, that we must confide in. The Modesty of whom ——— of One who at the *Pyrenean* Treaty swore, *that he would ever lay claim to Spain*; who afterwards promised by a Treaty, to observe the Partition; and who by our late (Honourable!) Peace, was obliged a Year ago to have demolished *Dunkirk*, and evacuate *Placentia*; of Him, who for these many Years, has been continually contriving the Ruin of our Wealth and Liberty; and who has for these last Twenty Years so felt the Scourge of this mighty Nation on his ambitious Designs, that he must be by this Time thoroughly convinced, that He can never build up that universal Power in *Europe*, which has been the constant Aim of his Ambition, but on the entire Subversion of the Power and Greatness of *Britain*.

But should you (as they would persuade you) sit still, and let the *Pretender* peaceably ascend the Throne, how would your Religion and Civil Rights be thereby secured?

He would swear to preserve them: *And did not his Father Swear?* We are not ignorant, ye Men of *Britain*, that those of the Religion, do not hold unlawful *the most horrid and most detested Crimes*, if they but serve to strengthen and enlarge the Dominions of their bloody Church. Were not the *Protestants* those *who preserved the present Grand Monarch on his Throne*, and had he not engaged himself by the Edict of *Nantz*, to secure to them the Free Exercise of their Religion: And how have they been rewarded, and how has he observed that Edict?

But our Enemies urge, that the *Pretender* can never forget his Father's Misfortune and therefore will never follow his Father's Steps. And I am afraid, Country-men this would prove true, but not after the manner that they would make you believe. I fear we shall sell, if ever he comes hither, *that he will never forget his Father's Exile: And* I question not, but were he once settled here, he would so remember his Father's Misfortunes, as never to attempt (as his Father did) to alter our *Laws and Constitution* without an Army that he was sure would support him; and he would never again trust the *Destruction of the Protestant Religion, to Protestant Soldiers*. He will have learnt from the *French* that the Cause of his Father's Ruin, was his not accepting soon enough their Protection, on the Condition

ditions they required, and being unwilling to submit himself entirely to be a Vassal and Viceroy to France. And is it possible to imagin, that he will pretend to make Difficulties in Treating, when he remembers that his Father lost a Kingdom, of which he was already possess'd, by not yielding in Time to their Demands; and that himself has no Prospect of ever gaining a Crown but by their Assistance. No, Country-men, it is much more probable, He will consent to any Terms that will settle him upon our Throne, and fix his Government here by a standing Army of Papists: And then if he follows his Education, his Passion and his Religion, he will root up, if possible, the very Memory of our Liberties and Religion. This, Fellow-Citizens, is what we are to look for, if the Pretender ever gets Possession of his Kingdom. And what else can we expect from one who has been bred up by the Jesuites, the falsest and most inveterate of all our Enemies, and with the Instructions of an Italian Mother, and in a Country where is exercised the greatest Tyranny, both in Religion and Civil Government, with the greatest Success; and where they are accustomed to talk of a limited Prince, with the utmost Scorn and Contempt?

Let not the Partizans of the Pretender, Ye Britons, persuade you tamely to accept of such a Prince. Let them not affright you with false Notions of Injustice; and make you out of a weak Compassion for one Person who is justly excluded,

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be cruel to your Selves, your Country and your Posterity. For what Right can they pretend this Youth to have, but that which his Father could leave him? And (not to mention the Grounds you have to believe he is but a pretended Son) did not his Father abdicate his Crown? Did He not declare, He would no longer be our King, by taking upon him the Power of a Tyrant? Did He not assume to Himself an Authority to dispense with those Laws, which he had sworn to Observe, and which was the Condition upon which He was Crowned, and upon which we were sworn to Obey Him? It is not unjust, Country-men, it is not unjust, to defend our Lives and Estates from a Robber, and our Country from an Invader: And what is a Tyrant? Worse than these; He is, One whom we have trusted, and who has betray'd us; He is, a Father who has endeavour'd to destroy his Children.

That it should ever enter into the Minds of Rational Creatures to suspect, that it was not just for Men to defend the common Rights of Men! And that there should ever be found any so inhuman, as to think it a Crime, for a Man to hazard his Life, to preserve his Country from Slavery and Oppression! Has there been ever before a Nation or Time so barbarous, in which it has not been rather esteem'd the most glorious of all Virtues?

Let them not, Ye Men of Britain, let them not discourage you in so noble a Pursuit, when you are supported by so just a Cause, when you are  
hither.



hitherto rewarded with such glorious Success; and when you have Reason to expect the Assistance of all the Protestant Powers of Europe, who look on our Destruction, as the Ruin of the Reformation.

Shall we who have adhered with the greatest Firmness and Bravery to our Rights, Liberties, and Religion, and have Preserved them for these six and Twenty Years, at last, when they stand in the greatest need of our Courage and Resolution, basely desert them? Shall we lose the Fruits of all our Victories for want of Virtue to pursue them? Shall We, who have ever overthrown the Troops of France in Battle, tamely submit to any Viceroy they shall send us? Where are the Battles of Hochsted and Ramilies and Oudenard; where that Glory in which a few Years ago this Nation appear'd among the States of Europe? Are they forgotten? Are these the Fruits we are to reap from them? To see our selves Slaves to a Sub-ject and Vassal of France; to see our Streets fill'd with the Blood of those Glorious Patriots, who have hitherto so bravely maintain'd our Liberties; and to see those true Christians, who will not Relinquish their Religion, nor embrace that impious Idolatry, flaming in the publick Places of our Cities. We, who were once the Terror of our Enemies; who were at the Head of the Confederacy in Europe, against the Universal Monarchy, that was attempted! Shall we live and see our selves the Prey that are Devoured by that Ambitious Tyrant? Does it not raise your Indignation, ye Britons, when ye behold the Trophies in Westminster-Hall,

*Hall, the Ensigns of your former Greatness, to think that you are now in Danger of becoming Subjects to those whom you had before trampled on; Of having your Country Ravaged, and your Cities destroyed by those, whom you, when you could have Conquered, Spared; And of being Treated with Contempt by those who once Trembled at your Name?*

*Let us but show ourselves and the Standards which we wrested from them, and when they call to mind their former Disasters, they will turn their Backs and not dare to withstand us. We have received from our Ancestors Laws and Liberties, which they often purchas'd with their Blood; And let Us not be so Degenerate as to transmit Slavery and Tyranny to our Posterity. Let it not be ever said that a few despicable Traytors at Home, and those Enemies whom we had Triumph'd over Abroad, were able to accomplish the Ruin of this Mighty Nation. No ——— My Countrymen, let us spend the last drop of our Blood, before we submit to such Reproachful Terms. What is Death if compar'd to a Life led with Shame and Ignominy? How much more will it become a Man and a Briton, to Die with Glory in defending the Liberty of his Country, than to live beneath an Inglorious Slavery.*

*I speak not this, Fellow-Citizens, that I am in any ways apprehensive you will be slack*

ack in withstanding whatever Powers shall resume to Invade you; But because I see, and I believe every one here sees what we have at present to apprehend, and how nearly we are threatned; and because I know that in Men of true Courage, the greater Danger stands before them, and the greater Shame they see in not surmounting it, the greater Valour and Resolution raises in them to bear up against it. For I must say, ye Men of *Britain*, if we, who have been the Glory of *Europe*, and the Delight of all Men, should now either through Fear or Remisness suffer the *Pretender* to ascend the *British* Throne, and subdue Us, we should become the Scorn of the present Age, and be Cursed by our Posterity.

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FINIS.

\* \* \* *The Grand Mystery laid Open, &c.* Printed by Ferd. Burleigh in Amen-Corner.

